

of murderers of husbands, murderers of fathers, and murderers of friends, and of those who have committed great sins against the gods and bráhmans. The kings that do not regard this kingdom preserving religion of BUDDHA, shall by it be cut off with all their family and perish in a flaming fire. May this very excellent religion of the people resembling a tree, remain in heaven for ever, and may people in all directions through its remaining, be happy as long as the sea continues to be agitated by marine monsters. . . .

IV.—Note on a Specimen of the *Bos Gaurus*. By Dr. GEORGE EVANS,
Curator of the Medical College.

[We are indebted to Lieut. G. ABBOTT, 15th N. I. for the faithful lithographic representation of this skull in Pl. XVI.—Ed.]

As I have reason to believe that very little is known of the *Gaur* (*Bos Gaurus*), or the animal generally considered by our Indian sportsmen as the Bison of the Indian forests and jungles, and thinking it might prove interesting, I have sent for the inspection of the Members of the Asiatic Society, who may be present at the next ensuing meeting, an exceedingly fine cranium of one of these very rare animals, which has recently been presented to me by a gentleman residing in the *Sambhalpur* district.

For want of good and select specimens of heads of the genus *Bos*, I am unable to offer any valuable remarks drawn from comparative observation of the osteological structure, so as to determine with anatomical precision whether it actually belongs to the Bisontine or Taurine group of the genus. I am, however, inclined to assign it to the latter, or otherwise to consider it as an intermediate species connecting the two divisions with each other; and what would seem to favor this intermedial arrangement, is its differing from both in some very essential points, and again corresponding with each in many of its generic relations.

In the present specimen, which is that of an old male, the forehead is deeply concave, broader than high, (taking the middle of the orbits as the base,) having a strong scabrous arched crista at the summit of the head, where it joins the parietal bone, to which it is firmly accreted: from this and the lateral parts of the frontal bone, a little above the declension of the orbits, proceed strong, thick-set and gently recurvent horns, the points turning towards the face. The orbits are remarkable for their lateral projection from the body of the

os frontis, in which respect the animal bears a marked resemblance to the Cervine race, as also by the pointed form of the nose, both which tend to give a peculiar character and wedge-like form to the head and face. There is also a deviation in the sudden termination of the full labial bones in their progress to the ossa nasi, which I do not observe in the heads of any of such of the domestic species as I have had an opportunity of examining; or even in those of the several buffaloes in my possession, their attachment being exclusively confined to the superior maxillary bones, without having any connection with those of the nose, which latter are large, broad and well arched, affording a very extensive chamber for the free passage of air, and also for the full expansion of the organ of smell. From this conformation I make no doubt that the animal is capable of enduring long-continued exertion: is possessed of exquisite scent, and that the intonations of the voice are thereby rendered deep, hollow and sonorous. In short, the whole formation of the head of this colossal bull appears to correspond with that of the fossil *Urus* found in different parts of Europe, and it unquestionably displays a vast extent of power to defend and assault, combined with great personal courage and precision in attack; and I have no doubt that he must often prove a most formidable antagonist to the tiger, the wild buffalo, and other tenants of his geographical range.

In looking over the different crania in the Society's museum, I find an imperfect skull (merely horns and forehead) marked "*Gaur*," which agrees with my specimen only in the shape of the horns, but the forehead is rounded as in the buffalo, and not cristated as in my specimen, which I look upon to be the true *Gaur* (*Bos Gaurus*) confined to the more sequestered and elevated tracts of Central India; and the above mentioned, that of the *Gayal* (*B. Gavæus*), wanting the occipital ridge, and dispersed more about the mountainous districts of the eastern provinces, unless indeed it prove to be the female of the one here described: but the propriety of classing even this and the *Yák* (*Bos Poephagus*) with the Bisons, may be questioned if external similitude has alone led to the arrangement. The only true standard for settling their mutual affinities and establishing their right to be included under the one or the other of the *artificial* divisions, which the difference observable in animals of the same genus, constituting varieties, has compelled naturalists to resort to, would be a strict inquiry into their individual osteological peculiarities, placing those under the Bisontine group, which, corresponding pretty generally in their external characters with each other, have, like the American Bison

fig. 1



fig. 2



L. Abbott del.